



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 20, 2012

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. The week ended with multiple sunny days in a row. This allowed for farmers to catch up on hay making over the weekend. Field activities for the week were cutting, raking and baling hay, planting, and spraying. Spring plowing is 95% complete, which is ahead of the 60% reported at this time last year and the 5-year average of 82%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 20, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	14	78	7

Crop Progress: Corn planting continued and is 75% complete, ahead of 38% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 62%. Corn is 42% emerged, ahead of 12% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 30%. Corn height is 4 inches, ahead of the average of 2 inches. Barley is 70% yellow, which is ahead of last year's 27%, and the average of 17%. Winter wheat is 84% headed, ahead of 53% at this time last year, and the average of 55%. Oats are 95% emerged, compared with 37% last year and the average of 72%. Soybean planting continues and is 44% complete, compared to 16% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 32%. Tobacco transplanting has begun, and is 5% complete, compared to 1% last year, and the average of 10%. Potatoes are 86% planted, compared to last year's 29%, and the average of 58%. The first cutting of alfalfa continues, and is 51% complete, compared with last year's 24% and the average of 26%. The first cutting of timothy/clover continues, and is 23% complete, compared with last year's 0% and the average of 6%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 0% poor, 17% fair, 55% good, and 23% excellent. Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 54% good, and 32% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 32% fair, 45% good, and 21% excellent. Alfalfa conditions are; 1% very poor, 6% poor, 28% fair, 50% good, and 15% excellent. Timothy/clover conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 36% fair, 51% good, and 11% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 23% fair, 46% good and 31% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 4% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 42% good and 21% excellent. Peach conditions are; 2% very poor, 3% poor, 33% fair, 36% good, and 26% excellent. Apple conditions are; 2% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 50% good, and 22% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 13, 2012: Corn: Producers had planted 87 percent of the nation's corn crop by week's end, 31 percentage points ahead of last year and 21 points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting

was nearing completion well ahead of the normal pace across most of the major producing regions. Following last week's above-average precipitation, drier conditions in the Midwest allowed for a rapid planting pace in many states during the week. Nationwide, favorable growing conditions left emergence advancing at the quickest pace on record. By May 13, emergence had advanced to 56 percent complete, 40 percentage points ahead of last year and 28 points ahead of the 5-year average. By week's end, progress was at least 21 percentage points ahead of normal in 13 of the 18 major estimating states.

Soybeans: By May 13, 46 percent of the soybeans were planted, 29 percentage points ahead of last year and 22 points ahead of the 5-year average. Nearly ideal weather conditions promoted double-digit progress in all estimating states except North Carolina, where a large portion of the soybean crop is grown following the winter wheat harvest. Nationally, emergence advanced 9 percentage points during the week to 16 percent complete by week's end. This was 13 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 72 percent complete by week's end, 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 26 points ahead of the 5-year average. Above-average temperatures, coupled with beneficial soil moisture levels throughout much of the growing season, promoted a rapid development pace of winter wheat in many regions. This left heading progress at least 40 percentage points ahead of normal in Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio. Overall, 60 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 3 percentage points from last week but 28 points better than the same time last year. In Kansas, precipitation remained scarce in the major wheat producing areas of the state. Small Grains: Oat producers had seeded 97 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 27 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of the 5-year average. With beneficial weather conditions evident in many regions, emergence advanced 10 percentage points during the week to 88 percent complete by May 13. This was 35 percentage points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. With activity limited to Iowa, Ohio, and Texas, 36 percent of the oat crop was headed by week's end. This was 3 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. In Texas, harvest for grain was just beginning in some areas with above-average yields reported, while many other producers were baling or green chopping their oat crop to help boost forage supplies depleted by ongoing dry conditions and limited pasture grass availability. Overall, 75 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 23 percentage points better than the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 20, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 20, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	79	36	59	3	0.01	1	3.54	-1.84	19	275	111	607
Franklin_AG	83	35	61	4	0.01	1	3.39	-2.51	21	269	106	598
Meadville-Port	83	36	61	5	0.00	0	3.61	-2.06	20	302	166	646
Clarion	82	34	58	-1	0.21	3	4.96	-1.22	21	238	46	549
Springboro	83	32	57	-2	0.00	0	5.83	0.67	19	213	38	507
Warren	88	36	60	4	0.04	1	4.96	-1.04	22	239	87	552
North Central												
Bradford Region	83	29	58	5	0.05	2	4.54	-1.31	20	216	122	513
Oswayo	83	29	58	4	0.14	2	3.77	-1.66	18	162	42	421
Kane	83	29	57	5	0.04	2	6.92	0.74	22	175	85	447
Laporte	78	38	59	2	2.86	4	9.16	3.37	22	189	17	492
Lock Haven	85	41	62	4	1.90	4	5.98	0.58	22	302	107	700
Coudersport_1SW	83	32	58	3	0.23	3	5.36	-0.07	25	174	54	443
Renovo	87	40	62	4	0.64	4	5.34	-0.06	22	292	97	681
Ridgway	86	33	59	4	0.25	3	4.52	-1.69	23	219	109	532
Stevenson Dam	86	39	61	7	0.38	4	4.84	-1.37	20	275	165	647
Towanda	81	39	60	3	1.46	4	5.01	-0.11	20	235	58	566
Wellsboro	80	34	57	4	0.62	4	3.83	-0.57	21	177	81	476
Williamsport	86	42	64	4	1.63	4	5.07	-0.59	21	363	117	774
Northeast												
Hawley	83	37	59	4	1.83	3	5.18	-0.82	19	211	91	519
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	42	63	5	2.92	3	7.03	1.74	20	332	120	701
Susquehanna	82	37	60	6	1.82	4	6.60	0.40	20	218	111	536
West Central												
Butler	82	34	60	2	0.35	3	5.09	-0.68	20	300	113	667
New Castle	87	36	61	3	0.14	2	3.25	-1.97	18	312	133	690
Slippery Rock	87	35	60	3	0.27	2	3.97	-1.45	17	296	137	666
Central												
Altoona/Blair	80	43	62	3	1.32	3	3.97	-1.50	18	373	146	781
DuBois	83	35	60	2	0.36	3	4.28	-1.56	20	279	115	623
Lewistown	84	43	62	2	1.55	4	4.98	-0.58	22	339	70	771
Middletown	82	48	65	3	1.46	3	4.93	-1.07	19	411	100	864
Prince Gallitzi	81	36	59	4	0.46	2	3.71	-3.58	17	258	112	611
Selinsgrove	83	43	62	3	1.85	4	5.61	0.00	20	292	70	685
State College	80	44	62	3	2.63	4	6.11	0.93	22	320	111	718
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	83	43	65	5	1.30	3	5.71	-0.56	17	372	112	798
Lehighton	79	42	62	2	1.88	4	7.00	0.86	18	276	29	669
Matamoras	81	42	62	4	1.45	3	6.25	-0.53	18	262	59	658
Mt_Pocono	79	38	59	6	2.18	4	6.96	-0.10	22	241	152	582
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	44	63	4	0.46	3	3.75	-2.21	20	419	189	838
Indiana_PA	82	36	60	2	0.70	3	4.95	-1.50	22	334	112	707
Myersdale	80	35	57	-2	0.94	2	4.25	-2.51	19	220	34	550
Chalk_Hill	78	35	58	-4	0.99	3	6.54	-0.01	23	280	16	618
Pittsburgh Intl	82	39	62	3	0.36	1	4.69	-0.74	18	407	156	817
Connellsville	83	44	61	1	0.97	2	5.95	-0.60	19	365	101	785
Waynesburg	81	41	60	2	0.41	2	4.05	-1.96	19	317	106	713
South Central												
Biglerville	82	46	64	3	1.54	3	4.97	-0.80	21	378	68	818
Everett	81	38	60	1	2.15	3	6.13	0.38	21	292	81	678
Hanover	82	42	64	2	1.04	3	5.26	-0.51	20	354	44	783
Harrisburg_AP	84	46	66	5	1.31	3	5.41	-0.59	20	449	132	904
South Mountain	79	39	60	1	1.86	3	5.90	0.43	21	257	37	637
York	81	42	64	2	1.40	3	5.58	-0.38	22	357	37	771
Southeast												
Green Lane	81	45	65	5	2.57	3	7.05	0.68	19	346	105	786
Hamburg	82	45	64	6	2.29	4	7.14	0.13	20	332	140	759
West_Chester	82	43	65	4	1.21	2	6.36	-0.32	12	345	43	763
Lancaster	82	45	65	5	1.37	2	4.29	-1.60	17	378	115	807
Neshaminy Falls	82	44	66	6	2.04	3	6.19	-0.77	20	371	115	829
New Holland	83	49	66	6	1.45	2	5.69	-0.20	17	416	153	878
Philadelphia	82	52	68	5	0.88	2	4.51	-1.54	13	485	138	964
Philadelphia NE	81	48	66	3	2.37	2	5.90	-0.15	15	413	66	873
Reading	83	48	66	6	0.94	3	4.09	-2.54	18	431	186	879
Sellersville	81	43	64	4	1.90	2	6.47	0.10	15	307	66	706
Doylestown_AG	82	46	65	5	1.17	2	6.07	-0.89	18	366	110	809

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney

Adams County had a cooler start to the week and received 1.5" of rainfall on Monday through Tuesday. Wednesday was sunny, 86 degrees and humid. Thursday was in the 50's during the morning, got into the 70's and was sunny through the daytime. Corn and soybeans continue to be planted. Early planted corn is now emerged and looking pretty good. Producers were a little leery about planting with the conditions, but faired out okay. Soybeans are starting to pop out of the soil. Wheat and barley continue to progress to maturity. What got planted doesn't look too bad. There are some areas that lay lower that do not look good. Oats continue to do well with recent rains. Haylage continues to be chopped. Some dry hay has been baled. Fruit crops continue to progress. Fruit is apparent on trees if you look closely. Peaches are approximately the size of peach seed. Growers still don't know the whole effect of weather conditions from this spring. Vegetables are being planted and are doing well. Overall, the county is looking pretty good with the crops. Producers are staying busy trying to harvest and plant some crops at the same time.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Apples are continuing to grow and drop is becoming more evident.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

The end of the week was good for field work. Planting wrap up and hay making are well under way. We received 2 inches of rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Many acres of haylage and some dry hay were made. Most of the farmers were planting corn and soybeans this past week. I noticed many acres of hay mowed. The hay needs to be harvested. The spring weather has forced hay to mature earlier than past years.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Last week was just a great week to get work done.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

It was a sunny and dry week after a few cold damp days at the beginning of the week. One and a half inches of rain last week benefitted the crops that were planted earlier. The end of week found most farmers catching up on their hay making. All crops are two weeks early this year, including strawberries.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger

Damage to tree fruit has become more apparent. The fruit set is less than anticipated with very little fruit thinning being done.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

Once again the start of the week had rain. Warmer, dry weather ended the week. More soybeans and corn were planted and alfalfa was mowed. The previously planted soybeans and corn are growing nicely. Alfalfa fields that were cut are coming back quickly. Fields are being sprayed for weeds.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Hay fields for forage were being cut and harvested at a rapid pace. This past week will probably be the best hay drying week in May and the best for quality forage-haylage and baled hay- plus the field conditions were ideal for machinery. Strawberries are just starting to produce. Our area is still behind in normal rainfall for May. Thursday morning we had a frost that did limited damage in our area. Producers are reporting damage to their grapes, apples, peaches, strawberries and other agricultural crops.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Excellent weather conditions late in the week and over the weekend allowed farmers to get back in the fields. Soil conditions were on the wet side, limiting planting to the better drained fields. Hay was being baled as well as rye straw. Still a large percentage of corn needs to be planted and most of the soybeans. Grass hay is in need of cutting and some timothy heads are now visible. Showers for the next few days will prevent most field activities until the end of the week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

There was heavy rainfall at the beginning of the week and near ideal conditions at the end. Many fields of haylage and dry hay were made. Corn is emerging with a few slug problems. Planting and harvesting were the main activities for the week.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

Corn is almost all planted, and germination looks good. First cutting haylage was coming off about a half of crop. We were very dry on our hill with only a half inch in the last two weeks.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

It was another excellent week for all types of field work. Corn and soybean planting progress is very good. Some hay harvest was started late in the week as temperatures got into the 80's.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 20, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	95	60	82
Corn, planted	75	38	62
Corn, emerged	42	12	30
Corn average height, inches	4	0	2
Barley, turning yellow	70	27	17
Wheat, heading or headed	84	53	55
Oats, emerged	95	37	72
Soybeans, planted	44	16	32
Soybeans, emerged	12	1	9
Tobacco, transplanted	5	1	10
Potatoes, planted	86	29	58
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	51	24	26
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	23	0	6

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 20, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	0	17	55	23
Wheat	0	1	13	54	32
Oats	0	2	32	45	21
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	6	28	50	15
Timothy clover stand	0	2	36	51	11
Quality of hay made	0	0	23	46	31
Pasture	4	3	30	42	21
Peaches	2	3	33	36	26
Apples	2	1	25	50	22

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